Priority to textile sector

1099. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile sector is receiving the utmost priority from Government through several reform measures;

(b) whether sick textile companies, especially National Textile Corporation are being revived through rehabilitation package;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor in the context of potential increase of India's share in world textile market?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have taken a number of steps giving a boost to the textile sector, which include nationalisation of fiscal duties, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, Technology Mission on Cotton, Apparel Park Scheme and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the Rehabilitation Schemes approved by the BIFR/Government, 65 unviable mills have been closed, 2 mills have been handed over to the Government of Pondicherry and 52 other mills have been identified for revival.

(d) Does not arise.

Closure of major mills in Gujarat due to floods

†1100. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether textiles industry has been adversely affected due to recent terrific floods in Gujarat and consequently many major mills are lying closed;

(b) if so, whether State Government has requested Central Government for financial assistance to restart these mills;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the financial assistance sanctioned by Central Government to reopen these textiles mills?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA): (a) No major textile mills are reported to have been affected adversely due to recent terrific floods in Gujarat. However, about 619 small powerloom and twisting units located in the low-lying areas of Surat, Bharuch and Ahmedabad had been temporarily closed and subsequently reopened after 2 to 5 days. The area-wise number of such units are as under:—

Surat — 611, Bharuch — 5 and Ahmedabad — 3.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Closure of cotton mills

†1101. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cotton mills already closed alongwith the number of mills decided to be closed by the Government in the country; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government for rehabilitation of the employees of the closed mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Whereas the Government does not maintain data in respect of mills decided to be closed, the number of closed cotton/man-made fibre textiles mills was 475 as on 31.03.2005.

(b) For rehabilitation of the employees of the closed mills, the Government has implemented the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme with effect from 15th September, 1986. The Scheme provides interim relief for three years to eligible textile workers to enable them to settle in another employment as follows:—

* to the extent of 75% of the wage equivalent in the first year of the closure of the unit;
* to the extent of 50% of the wage equivalent in the second year; and
* to the extent of 25% of the wage equivalent in the third year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.